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ABSTRACT

This guide provides information on a variety of resources helpful to those interested in pursuing a vocation in film or television. Publications which frequently list jobs available in the film/television field are listed with addresses and telephone numbers; apprenticeship/training programs are described briefly; and finally, there is a bibliography and a section on general sources of information. (VT)

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Careers in Film and Television

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CAREERS IN FILM AND TELEVISION

This FACTFILE will serve as a resource list to those interested in pursuing careers in film or television.

* * *

The movies themselves have time and again listed requirements for success in motion pictures. Hard work, talent, and luck are the fabled prerequisites to becoming a "star." Indeed, these three factors are basic requirements for anyone wishing to break into the fields of motion pictures and television. They just are not as steeped in glamour and fantasy in the real world as they are in the movies.

This FACTFILE provides information on a variety of resources helpful to anyone pursuing a vocation in film or television. The guilds, craft unions, and professional organizations listed are all potential sources of valuable information.

While a phone call or letter to the Writers Guild, for instance, will not necessarily provide a listing of job openings, it will give information on the central importance of the Guild in terms of the writing profession. Quite often membership in a guild or union is a primary requirement for obtaining work.

Training for a career in film or television is accomplished in a variety of ways. In some cases growing up within or around the industry is the path to a career. Formal education in the various areas of the motion picture arts from acting to directing to writing to technical support is supplied at junior

colleges, colleges, and universities throughout the country. The AFI Guide to College Courses in Film and Television is a valuable source to anyone planning for academic training in film or television.

Another area of training which bridges the gap between formal education and work experience is represented by the various apprenticeship and internship programs. Both local television stations and small film companies as well as major networks and studios often offer internship or apprentice experience for individuals pursuing a career in the field. The valuable result of such experience is that it allows the individual to build actual work credits while still in a learning situation. The competitive nature of today's job market tends to require that an individual possess not only a "degree" in his or her chosen field, but also demonstration of actual work experience. Accomplishments such as completed films, festival awards, and special recommendations provide additional testimony to an individual's career potential.

Perhaps it's the movies themselves which perpetuate the idea that the career goal of every film and television student rests in the feature film industry or the national television networks. The reality of the situation is that for approximately every two hundred students pursuing this goal, there is actually only one job opening. It must be remembered that work in film or television can be found in mary areas other than the fabled "big-time."

The educational and industrial film/television production fields are continually expanding. Local broadcast television and, more recently, cable television are important markets for qualified creative and technical personnel. Advertising and marketing are also fields which offer opportunities for film and television professionals.

The thing to remember is that there is no one way to a career in motion pictures or television. No success formula exists. Be willing to explore alternatives and stay flexible in your attitudes towards both training and the ultimate career goal.

S. Grogg

* * *

JOB LISTINGS:

The following publications frequently list jobs available in the film/television field. The Sunday editions of major newspapers such as the Los Angeles Times and the New York Times are rich sources of job information. Film/television educators may also wish to check listings in The Chronicle of Higher Education and the film/television departments of universities and colleges.

ALPHA VIEWFINDER, 1001 Lenora Street, Seattle, WA 98121. (Lists jobs available and jobs wanted in the film/audio-visual industry.) Bimonthly. Free upon request to those in the motion picture/audiovisual industry.

AMERICAN CINEMATOGRAPHER, 1782 North Orange Drive, Hollywood, CA 90028. (Notes positions available and those wanted in film/television field.) Monthly. $9/year.

THE APERTURE, 215 West Pershing, Kansas City, MO 64108. (Positions wanted/available are listed.) Bimonthly. Free upon request to those in the motion picture/audio-visual industry.

AUDIOVISUAL INSTRUCTION, Association for Educational Communications and Technology, 1126 16th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20036. (Placement service provided for AECT members.) 10 issues a year. $18/year.

BACK STAGE, 165 West 46th Street, New York, NY 10036. (Lists positions available in acting, film and television production.) Weekly. $18/year.

BROADCASTING, Broadcasting Pub. Inc., 1735 DeSales Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20036. (Positions wanted and available in the broadcasting field.) Weekly. $30/year.

DAILY VARIETY, 1400 North Cahuenga Boulevard, Hollywood, CA 90028. (Lists jobs in the motion picture industry.) Daily except Saturdays and Sundays. $40/year.

DIGEST OF THE UNIVERSITY FILM ASSOCIATION, Department of Drama & Communications, The University of New Orleans, Lakefront, New Orleans, LA 70122. (Lists academic positions available in film/tv/communications.) UFA membership newsletter.

HOLLYWOOD REPORTER, 6715 Sunset Boulevard, Hollywood, CA 90028. (Positions available in the motion picture industry.) Daily except Saturdays and Sundays. $40/year.

JOURNAL OF THE SMPTE, 862 Scarsdale Avenue, Scarsdale, NY 10583. (Lists technical jobs in the film industry.) Monthly. $30/year.

VARIETY, 154 West 46th Street, New York, NY 10036. (Lists positions available and wanted in film/tv.) Weekly. $30/year.

APPRENTICESHIP/TRAINING PROGRAMS:

Membership in a union or guild is usually mandatory for anyone wishing to work in film or television. The International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees and Moving Picture Operators (IATSE) encompasses more than 20 crafts. Other major guilds/unions are the Screen Actors Guild, Actor's Equity Association, Directors Guild of America, and Writers Guild of America.

Special training programs and apprenticeships are offered by some of the major guilds. For specific information and application forms, write the organization listed below.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences/
The American Film Institute:

Academy Internship Program
Center for Advanced Film Studies
501 Doheny Road
Beverly Hills, CA 90210
(213) 278-8777

Funded by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and cosponsored by The American Film Institute. Applicant must be at least 21 years of age. Selected candidates observe the production of a feature film and are paid a weekly stipend for the duration of the filming. Contact Jan Haag.

Association of Motion Picture & Television Producers:

Assistant Directors Training Program
Contract Services Office
Association of Motion Picture & Television Producers
8480 Beverly Boulevard
Hollywood, CA 90048
(213) 653-2200, ext. 227

Sponsored by the Directors Guild of America and the Association. Upon completion of the program, the trainee becomes eligible for employment as a second-assistant director. Stipend is paid for the 400-day program of on-the-job training. Contact Jack E. Carlson.

Camera Training Program
Contract Services Office
Association of Motion Picture & Television Producers
8480 Beverly Boulevard
Hollywood, CA 90048
(213) 653-2200, ext. 227

A year-long training program after which trainee's name will be placed on the Industry Experience Roster in Group I as Assistant Camera Person. Applicant must be a high school graduate, at least 18 years of age. $150/week stipend for 200 days of on-the-job training. Contact Jack E. Carlson.

Make-Up Training Program
Publicists Training Program
Script Supervisor Training Program
Contract Services Office
Association of Motion Picture & Television Producers
8480 Beverly Boulevard
Hollywood, CA 90048
(213) 653-2200

These training programs are open to qualified applicants. Stipend offered during training period. Contact Ellen Leonard.

Corporation for Public Broadcasting:

Women's Training Grant Program
Corporation for Public Broadcasting
1111 16th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 293-6160

Designed to encourage employment of women in public broadcasting. Awards are made directly to public broadcasting stations. Contact local station for further information.

Grass-Roots Network:

Grass-Roots Intern Program
Box 2006
Aspen, CO 81611

Sponsored by Aspen's community cablecasting station. Undergraduate and graduate students of communications are eligible, as are others interested in the field. 3-month internship. Course credit available. Contact John M. Smith.

International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees and Moving Picture Operators:

IATSE
1515 Broadway, Suite 601
New York, NY 10036
(212) 730-1770

Many IATSE locals offer apprenticeship programs of 2-4 years duration. The fields of study include art direction, make-up, costuming, and property craft. Individual locals design their own programs. Mr. Rene L. Ash, Publicity Director at IATSE's New York City office will refer inquiries regarding a specific field to the proper local for information about its apprenticeship/training program.

National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences:

Script Development Workshop
National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences
110 West 57th Street, Suite 301
New York, NY 10019
(212) 765-2450
Designed for writers of film, television, radio, and theater. Both NATAS members and non-members are eligible for enrollment. Contact Trent Gough.

Other workshops and training programs in the field are offered by manufacturers of motion picture equipment and by companies such as the Film Industry Workshops, Inc., located at 4063 North Radford, Studio City, CA 91604.

Similar organizations are listed in the West Coast Studio Blu-Book. This guide may be obtained by sending $5 to Studio Blu-Book, Inc., 7046 Hollywood Boulevard, Suite 616, Hollywood, CA 90028. Other sources of information on this type of training program include Hollywood Reporter, Daily Variety, and Back Stage.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Check the Subject Guide to Books in Print under "Occupations" for current literature on careers.

Allosso, Michael and Mary Lewis Hansen. Exploring Theater and Media Careers: A Student Guidebook. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Technical Education Research Centers, Inc., 1976. For grades 7-12 and college level. Information on careers in production, writing, business, and other areas of the field. Glossary.

American Film Institute Guide to College Courses in Film and Television. Washington, D.C.: Acropolis Books Ltd. Published biennially. Lists schools of higher education offering programs and/or degrees in film/tv study. Includes information on scholarships, faculty, courses offered. Available from AFI Book Service, Kennedy Center, Washington, DC 20566.

Careers for Women in Broadcasting. Washington, D.C.: American Women in Radio and Television, Inc., 1970. Pamphlet describing jobs in the field and schools offering broadcast degrees. Write American Women in Radio and Television, Inc., 1321 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20036.

Careers for You in Motion Pictures & Television. Scarsdale, New York: Society of Motion Picture & Television Engineers. Free pamphlet outlining technical careers in the field. Write Society of Motion Picture & Television Engineers, 862 Scarsdale Avenue, Scarsdale, NY 10583.

Careers in Television. Washington, D.C.: National Association of Broadcasters, 1976. Pamphlet outlining general job areas in television and training in the field. Write National Association of Broadcasters, 1771 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

Coleman, Hila. Making Movies: Student Films to Features. New York: The World Pub. Co., 1969. Jobs in the film industry are described. Information on training programs, union requirements.

Directory of Internships, Work Experience Programs, and On-the-Job Training Opportunities. Thousand Oaks, California: Ready Reference Press, 1976. Lists career programs in the U.S. and Canada offered by industry, government agencies, foundations.

Gordon, George N. and Irving A. Falk. Your Career in Filmmaking. New York: Julian Messner, 1969. Survey of the filmmaking industry and career advice.

Horrell, C. William. A Survey of Motion Picture, Still Photography, and Graphic Arts Instruction. (Pamphlet T-17). Rochester, New York: Eastman Kodak Co., 1975. Survey of courses offered in U.S. and Canadian schools of higher education and technical instruction. Write Eastman Kodak Co., Motion Picture and Audiovisual Markets Division, Rochester, NY 14650.

International Motion Picture Almanac. New York: Quigley Pub. Co.
International Television Almanac. New York: Quigley Pub. Co.
Published annually. These list organizations in the film/tv industry, their general functions, staffs, and addresses. Motion picture studios, guilds, and related organizations listed; television stations, companies, and related organizations listed. General handbooks to the film/tv field.

Jackson, Gregory. Getting Into Broadcasting News: A Guide to Careers in Radio and TV. New York: Hawthorn Books, 1974.

Joels, Merrill E. How to Get Into Show Business. New York: Hastings House, 1969. Advice to actors on entering film/tv. Practical information on the field, contracts, and agents.

Pate, Michael. The Film Actor. New York: A.S. Barnes, 1969. Practical advice on acting in the movies.

Rose, Ernest D. World Film & TV Study Resources. Bonn-Bad Godesberg, GERMANY: Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, 1974. Lists study programs worldwide. Film/tv archives and study centers are listed.

A Student's Guide to Careers in Motion-Picture Production. (Pamphlet S-10). Rochester, New York: Eastman Kodak Co. Free pamphlet for the high school student. Outlines opportunities in the field. Write Eastman Kodak Co., Motion Picture and Audiovisual Markets Division, Rochester, NY 14650.

"Television Careers." New York: Television Information Office. Bibliography on television careers. Write Television Information Office, 745 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10022.

Wagner, Robert. ed. The Education of the Filmmaker: An International View. Paris: The UNESCO Press and Washington, DC: The American Film Institute, 1975. Narrative description of filmmaking programs in the U.S. and other countries. Available from AFI Book Service, Kennedy Center, Washington, DC 20566.

GENERAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

The following guilds, unions, and organizations may be contacted for career information. Some of these offer training/apprenticeship programs.

ACTOR'S EQUITY ASSOCIATION, 1500 Broadway, New York, NY 10036. (212) 869-8530.

AMERICAN CINEMA EDITORS, 422 South Western Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90020. (213) 386-1946.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TELEVISION AND RADIO ARTISTS (AFTRA), 1350 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019. (212) 265-7700.

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CINEMATOGRAPHERS, INC., 1782 North Orange Drive, Hollywood, CA 90028. (213) 876-5080.

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF COMPOSERS, AUTHORS, AND PUBLISHERS (ASCAP), One Lincoln Plaza, New York, NY 10023. (212) 595-3050.

DIRECTORS GUILD OF AMERICA, INC., 7950 Sunset Boulevard, Hollywood, CA 90046. (213) 656-1220.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BROADCASTERS, 1771 N Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20036. (202) 293-3500.

PRODUCERS GUILD OF AMERICA, 8201 Beverly Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90048. (213) 651-0084.

SCREEN ACTORS GUILD, 7750 Sunset Boulevard, Hollywood, CA, 90046. (213) 876-3030.

SOCIETY OF MOTION PICTURE AND TELEVISION ENGINEERS (SMPTE), 862 Scarsdale Avenue, Scarsdale, NY 10583. (914) 472-6606.

WRITERS GUILD OF AMERICA, EAST, INC., 22 West 48th Street, New York, NY 10036. (212) 575-5060.

WRITERS GUILD OF AMERICA, WEST, INC., 8955 Beverly Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90048. (213) 550-1000.

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